

The Status Report



Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford St., 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02114
Web: www.mass.gov/women Phone: 617-626-6520 E-Mail: mcsw@state.ma.us

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As many of you know, October is annually recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, as part of a collaborative effort by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence to bring about effective change through social action. Although most statistics about domestic violence are devastating, some may offer hope: According to the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services, in a single twenty-four hour period, over 2,000 abused women accessed domestic violence services in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women feels a deep commitment towards continuing to provide sufficient social support and legal resources for survivors of domestic violence.

Two national programs are offering simple ways to make a difference this month with the push of a button. Just text “hope” to 41010 to make a one-time \$10 donation to the National Network to End Domestic Violence and HopeLine by Verizon will match it. Another easy opportunity to help can be found on Facebook- simply click the “Like” button on Click to Empower’s Tell A Gal Campaign page, and the Allstate Foundation will donate one dollar to the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Locally, Jane Doe is always recruiting collation volunteers in the Public Policy, Fundraising, and Public Relations areas to work during normal business hours. For those interested in volunteering during weekend or evening hours, Jane Doe has an extensive list of sister organizations throughout Massachusetts. Visit janedoe.org/involved.htm for more details.

The MCSW thanks the many sister organizations dedicated to confronting the challenges and issues related to domestic violence. It is through the continuous efforts of committed volunteers, employees, and citizens such as yourself that the prevalence of domestic violence resources and support continue to exist.

Linda Cavaoli
Chair
The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality Update

Established in 2005 with the purpose of advancing the economic status of women in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality is preparing to energize Coalition members in anticipation of the next legislative session. After making gains in the push for comparable work legislation and other wage equality bills, the Coalition is beginning to strategize for the future of this type of legislation, working with past partners and actively searching for new collaborators committed to the cause. If you or your organization would like to be involved in the Coalition's work, or for more information regarding pay equity, please contact us at mcsw@state.ma.us

BCW Helps Women to Dress for Success

Start cleaning out those closets! The Brookline Commission for Women is hosting its 5th Annual Dress for Success Winter Coat & Clothing Drive on Friday, November 12th from 11am - 7pm and Saturday, November 13th from 8am - 11am. The event will be hosted at the Brookline Public Safety Headquarters, Community Room, 350 Washington Street.

Dress for Success is a non-profit organization that offers services to help disadvantaged women enter the workforce and stay employed. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a week's worth of separates when she gets the job.

Please limit your donations to winter coats, business suits and accessories (gloves, scarves, shoes, handbags and briefcases, etc.) All donations should be appropriate for the workplace and clean/ready to wear. Cash donations for the Dress for Success dry cleaning fund along with non-perishable food donations will also be accepted.

For questions, please contact BCW@town.brookline.ma.us or (617) 730-2407.

Temporary Office Manager Wanted for Winter

The MSCW is currently looking for a Temporary Office Manager to act as the office manager while the Director is absent. Job duties include providing office management and support to the MCSW Chair and Commissioners, communicating with the chair on a weekly basis, greeting and answering visitors, telephone calls, and emails received by the MCSW, addressing public and state inquiries, and supervising approximately 3-5 interns. Other responsibilities include preparing for executing the monthly Full and Executive Commission meetings, supporting the Public Policy and Legislative Committees and their chairs, and distributing the monthly newsletter.

Applicants should have strong organizational, interpersonal, and decision-making skills, an ability to work independently, and possess the ability to manage many tasks simultaneously. Applicants should have 3-5 years of office management experience. College degree preferred. Interested applicants should email mcsw@state.ma.us for more information.

Essex County Commissioner Application Deadline Extended

On October 14, the MCSW hosted a public meeting in Peabody to provide information on the soon-to-be-inaugurated Essex County Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting was an opportunity for the MCSW to inform interested county residents about the Essex County commission and the application process for those interested in being appointed to one of the nine commissioner positions.

In order that all interested persons will be able to apply in a timely fashion, the MCSW has extended the application deadline for commissioner positions for the Essex County Commission on the Status of Women to November 5, 2010. Interested residents of Essex County seeking an application should contact the MCSW immediately.

Internship Opportunities at the MCSW

The MCSW is proud to host a variety of collegiate interns from Boston and the surrounding areas each semester. Interns are essential to the functioning of the Commission and overall office productivity. Interested applicants should email mcsw@state.ma.us for more information.

Fall River Public Hearing Fast Approaching

The Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women and MCSW are currently in the final preparation stages for their first public hearing of the year, which will be hosted in Fall River on November 17th at 7:00 pm, Family Services Associations of Greater Fall River, at 101 Rock St. Residents are encouraged to attend and share information about issues that impact their community. The MCSW and BCCSW both look forward to communicating with local organizations and collaborating on issues for the advancement of women.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As many of us who have been personally affected by breast cancer already know, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women (excluding cancers of the skin) and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women. Approximately 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer sometime in their lifetime. Massachusetts has the fourth highest incidence rate in the United States.

The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month organization works to promote breast cancer awareness, provide greater access to screening services, and share information on the disease. Although they work year-round, October is primarily focused on awareness and fundraising.

Here in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) specifically advocates for breast cancer prevention practices. The organization raises awareness about the corporate links to breast cancer and focuses on environmental causes related to primary prevention. The MBCC would like individuals to consider the commercialization of breast cancer, and analyze how the organizations that are receiving money from Pink campaigns are utilizing their contributions. For more information, visit www.mbcc.org.

Commissioner DeFranco Receives National Award

Commissioner Marisa DeFranco received a national award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA). NLADA awarded the 2010 Beacon of Justice Award to 34 law firms across the country, honoring their extraordinary commitment to providing significant pro bono legal representation in the area of immigration law. The award was presented at the NLADA Exemplar Award Dinner on October 6 in Washington, DC. Also honored that evening was Justice John Paul Stevens with the Lifetime Achievement Award.